(a) whether the projects run by the Central Government in the country were underway in June, 2009;

(b) if so, the number thereof; and

(c) the number of projects, out of those whose completion period was extended because of delay in their construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) As on 1st May, 2009, 920 central sector projects costing Rs. 20 crore and above at an estimated cost of Rs. 578622.10 crore are under implementation and are on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Of these, 389 projects with estimated cost of Rs. 321618.72 crore in different infrastructure sectors reported delays with respect to their latest approved Date of Commissioning.

Education for tribal students

3330. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that tribal students are a discriminated lot in schools which affects their education;

(b) whether Government is also aware that they are after used as servants;

(c) if so, the details of the schools, State-wise, where tribal students are discriminated against;

(d) whether Government is considering to take necessary steps so that tribal students can get education like other students and the details of action is taken against the teachers who use them as servants; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY) (a) and (b) No such complaint has been received in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Scheduled Tribe facilities for tribal Muslims

3331. DR. EJAZ ALI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any religious binding in availing the facilities of Scheduled Tribes;

(b) whether tribal Muslims are availing the facilities of Scheduled Tribes throughout the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY) (a) to (d) The communities notified as Scheduled Tribes under Article 342 of the Constitution may profess any religion. The list of Scheduled Tribes is State/UT specific and any inclusion/exclusion/modification in the list of Scheduled Tribes of any State/UT may be done only after the concerned State Government/UT Administration sends the proposal and is agreed by the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes. Further, All communities notified as Scheduled Tribes, irrespective of the religion being professed by their members, are entitled to avail the benefits meant for the Scheduled Tribes.

Complaints regarding ST certificates

3332. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints during 2008-09 regarding people taking advantage of privileges of Scheduled Tribes by producing fake certificates;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government; and

(c) what measures Government intends to take to stop this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) During 2008-09 the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has received references for verification of Scheduled Tribe's Certificates from different Ministries/Departments/ Organizations etc. As the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for specification of Scheduled Tribes under Article 342 of the Constitution and the issuance and verification of Caste Certificates rests with the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations, the Ministry has, therefore, referred these cases to the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations for appropriate action.

(c) The Government of India has issued various circulars from time to time for proper issuance and verification of Scheduled Tribe's Certificates. Following the decision of the apex court in the case of Kumari Madhuri Patil and others *Vs.* State of Maharashtra and others, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has again circulated in June, 2004, the instructions of the Supreme Court to streamline the procedure for the issuance of social status certificates, their scrutiny and their approval to all State Government/UT Administrations.

Inclusion of Dhangar community in the list of ST

3333. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Goa Government has proposed to include Dhangar community in the list of Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal; and